# MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

17 September 1981

## Lebanon

Explosions--KUNA reported that a huge explosion early on 17 September devastated the PLO's regional headquarters in Sidon as well as a number of adjoining buildings. Reporting that an as yet unnamed senior Palestinian military official was killed in the blast, KUNA noted that 10 bodies had so far been recovered but that many more remained buried amid the debris. KUNA said the explosion emanated from a vehicle carrying about 200 kg of TNT. According to Voice of Lebanon radio, another explosion in the northern town of Shikka the same day killed 10 persons and injured at least that number. AFP disclosed that an anonymous caller claimed that "the Lebanese Foreigners' Liberation Front" was responsible for both explosions.

General Security Situation--Beirut radio reported on 16 September that Lebanese and Syrian security officials, meeting in Shtawrah, discussed the question of the withdrawal of "some Syrian units" from the hilltops and areas surrounding Zahlah. The radio also noted the arrival in Beirut of 13 AMX-15 tanks donated to the Lebanese Army by the French Government. Other reports by the radio focused on renewed clashes between local organizations in the Ash-Shiyah area of southern Beirut. The radio said the clashes continued until late in the evening when intensive contacts by security chiefs with the parties concerned halted the fighting.

## Syria

AFP, citing an announcement made by the Syrian Embassy in Moscow, reported the "imminent" arrival of a Syrian military delegation that is expected to press the USSR for increased arms aid.

## Egypt

In a French television interview reported by MENA and dealing in part with whether U.S.-Egyptian relations will be closer as a result of recent Egyptian domestic and anti-Soviet developments, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali affirmed that his nation is committed to maintaining a balance between the Eastern and Western blocs since it is a nonaligned state and an OAU member that supports the organization's commitment to nonalignment.

## Israel

Begin Press Conference--Speaking at a Ben-Gurion Airport press conference broadcast live by IDF radio, Prime Minister Menahem Begin said the Israeli and U.S. defense ministers will hold further talks on strategic cooperation in November when they will sign a memorandum that will be published. Refusing to divulge details of his recent meeting with Secretary of State Alexander Haig, Begin said there is no confrontation between Israel and the U.S. Administration. He reiterated that his country and the United States are allies and friends but disclosed that the idea of a written U.S.-Israeli mutual defense treaty was not mentioned during his discussions in Washington. Noting that he personally favors such an alliance, Begin said the initiative for a treaty should come from the United States rather than Israel.

Relations With Egypt--Jerusalem radio reported that Egyptian-Israeli misunderstandings resulting from Chief of Staff Lt Gen Refa'el Eytan's reported remarks about the instability of President Anwar as-Sadat's regime have now been resolved in the wake of a meeting between Israel's ambassador in Cairo and Egyptian Defense Minister 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah. The radio reported earlier that Egyptian-Israeli normalization talks in Jerusalem have made "marked progress."

## Steadfastness and Confrontation Front

Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland radio broadcast live the ceremony held in Suluq, Libya, marking the 50th anniversary of the execution of Libyan patriot 'Umar al-Mukhtar. In attendance were the leaders of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front--Libyan leader Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, PDRY Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, PLO Executive Chairman Yasir 'Arafat--as well as Iranian and Chadian representatives. Al-Qadhdhafi spoke at both the opening and conclusion of the ceremony, devoting his remarks to praise of Al-Mukhtar and avoiding any references to either domestic or foreign current political developments. Syrian President al-Asad delivered a strong attack against the United States for "sponsoring" Israel, which he identified as a "racist Zionist movement." Al-Asad said U.S. "strategic cooperation" with Israel signifies the beginning of a "new and serious" phase in U.S.-Israeli dealings, involving direct U.S. confrontation with the Arabs in an attempt to block the path to a just solution or a just peace in the Middle East. He asserted, however, that the United States is mistaken if it thinks the Arab nation will capitulate. The U.S.-Israeli agreement will only succeed, he said, in creating more explosive lines of division.

## Iran

AFP reported that most Tehran newspapers gave wide coverage to 'Ali Khamene'i's candidacy in the forthcoming presidential elections, downplaying that of Prime Minister Mohammad Reza Mahdavi-Kani. KEYHAN, the only paper to report on Mahdavi-Kani's candidacy, said the prime minister may step down before the election.

## Iran-Iraq Conflict

Military Situation--According to Tehran radio, Iranian planes bombed and blew up part of an Iraqi oil platform and downed an Iraqi MiG aircraft. Iranian aircraft also destroyed two Iraqi naval vessels, the radio said, and Iranian ground fire sank an Iraqi ship in the Shatt al-'Arab. An Iraqi armed forces communique carried by INA said Iraqi aircraft staged successful raids in the southern sector of the battlefront and did not mention any Iranian raids on Iraq.

Fallahi Press Conference--Speaking at a press conference reported by Tehran radio, Iranian Armed Forces Joint Staff Acting Chief Brig Gen Valiollah Fallahi claimed that since 23 October 1980 Iranian forces have recaptured more than half the Iranian territory occupied by the Iraqi Army in the first weeks of the war. Asserting that Iraq had a massive superiority over Iran in the number of its tanks and other heavy equipment at the outset of the conflict, he said the Iraqis had nevertheless more than twice as many combatants killed or captured as the Iranians.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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*Vol VIII No 180*

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KARMAL ADDRESSES ECONOMIC SEMINAR PARTICIPANTS

LD162154 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 16 Sep 81

[Text] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, this afternoon received the party activists who participated in the second seminar of the PDPA Central Committee Economics Department in the Gol Khana Palace--headquarters of the Revolutionary Council--and spoke with them in a completely democratic atmosphere.

Addressing the participants in the seminar, Babrak Karmal said: I heartily congratulate you on the successful conclusion of the second seminar of the Central Committee Economic Department, on behalf of the PDPA Central Committee, the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium and on my own behalf.

Babrak Karmal added: You comrade youths in charge of the party's economic policy do not spare any efforts to restore and advance the country's economy in a profound and detailed way. You also take into account your society's subjective conditions and attitudes as regards the implementation of economic plans, particularly in agriculture, industry, monetary and financial issues, transportation, public work, private and government enterprises and so forth [words indistinct]. Babrak Karmal added that it is the duty of every party member, particularly officials of the PDPA Central Committee Economics Department, to acquaint themselves with all economic terms and expressions.

There is a popular saying that economics is the mother of all social science subjects. When we talk of politics, the army, the state, a regime, society, the people, the masses, the classes, ideology and so forth, we see that their foundation is economics. Our economic policy is clear. Our economy will no longer depend on imperialist and capitalist markets. The approach that we have now chosen in the economic sector is a progressive, national and democratic policy which by its nature contradicts that of past regimes.

Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, giving a detailed explanation to the seminar participants about the economic assistance of the USSR, added: It is your duty to gradually improve the economic order, that is to say, to increase production and to make use of the experience of friendly countries for the implementation of national economic plans and to apply them in practice in accordance with your homeland's revolutionary legality.

Babrak Karmal then wished success to the participants in the seminar and expressed the hope that they will evaluate the difficulties and disadvantages of their tasks by consultation and discussions and will then present their views and suggestions.

Bakhtar reports that Niaz Mohammad Mohmand, secretary and member of the party central committee and head of the PDPA Central Committee Economics Department, promised Babrak Karmal that they will pursue all their objectives in a scientific and detailed manner and will do their best to achieve them.

The economics director of the provincial party committee of Baghlan Province then added on behalf of the seminar participants: we are aware of the weight of our duties for the advancement of the economic plans of the country under the leadership of the PDPA and we will make our best efforts in this direction.

KABUL CITES EXEMPTIONS FROM MILITARY SERVICE

LD161644 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1600 GMT 16 Sep 81

[Text] Dear compatriots, according to Articles 53 and 54 of the Law on Military Conscription, military service can be deferred for a period of 1 year or more for conscripts in the following categories:

1. Conscripts whose parents are not capable of working, if they are the sole supporters of their families and have no financial backing.

2. Persons who have a small child, brother or sister who are not able to work or are not capable of earning their food and have nobody else to support them.

3. Deferral of military service for health reasons will be granted to conscripts whose illness has been legally certified and diagnosed and who are not capable of service in the armed forces.

4. If two or three brothers in one family are liable to call up and conscription, one of them will be granted deferral at the choice of their parents, if they are not capable of working.

HEAVY FIGHTING IN PAKTIA REPORTED IN KARACHI PAPER

GF151134 Karachi NAWA-E WAWT in Urdu 13 Sep 81 p 8

[Text] Dera Ismail Khan, 12 Sep (PPI)--Reports of intense fighting between Soviet and Karmal forces and the Afghan Mojahedin in (Payer) in Afghanistan's Paktia Province have been received. It has been reported that the Soviet and Karmal troops, who were equipped with tanks and helicopters, have recaptured the (Payer) area after a 10-day battle and that the Afghan Mojahedin have retreated into the surrounding hills from where they are launching attacks.

According to latest reports the Mojahedin, who are being led by Mawlavi Mohammad Yunos Khales and Mawlavi Mohammad Nabi Ahmad, have destroyed a Soviet military camp in the area. During these operations, more than 100 soldiers of the Soviet and Karmal forces were killed while only 2 Mojahedin were martyred. The Mojahedin seized a large quantity of arms and ammunition from the camp. Reports from across the border indicate that the Mojahedin are exerting immense pressure on the (Payer) area.

BRIEFS

NEW WEEKLY--Kabul, 5 Sep (BAKHTAR)--A new weekly magazine DEHQAN (THE FARMER) has begun its publication from September. The weekly, an organ of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, would cater to the intellectual needs of the peasants and also bring home to them the policy of the party and the revolutionary government. The first issue of the journal carries a message of Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA, on the occasion of the debut of this weekly. The weekly DEHQAN, which is issued every Thursday in Pashto and Dari languages separately in four pages, in addition to publishing news regarding the activities in the farmers movement, carries important home and international news in a language and style comprehensible to the farmers. [Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 6 Sep 81 LD]

SOVIET AID--Kabul, 6 Sep (BAKHTAR)--Technical equipment, materials and communications means were delivered today to the Ministry of Communication of the DRA in the series of the free aid deliveries by the Soviet Union. This gift comes from the Ministry of Communication of the USSR. The aid includes 15 sound amplifiers which are fixed in gas vehicles, eight new gas mail vans, drilling machines and cranes, 15 motorcycles, 50 bicycles, 38 telegraphic communication installations, 60 parts of weighing balances for post offices, measuring installations, spare parts and materials for radio stations, accessories for diesel-powered vehicles and large quantities of means of communication for post, telephone and telegraph for departments. [Excerpt] [Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 7 Sep 81 LD]

COMMENTARY WELCOMES OUTCOME OF DELHI TALKS

BK150708 Dacca Overseas Service in English 0445 GMT 15 Sep 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The India-Bangladesh dialogue on the foreign ministers level held recently in New Delhi concluded on an encouraging and optimistic note. It is good to hear the two countries agreed to take necessary steps in removing the causes of tension between the two neighbors. A joint statement released simultaneously from New Delhi and Dacca at the end of the 2-day talks between Bangladesh Foreign Minister Prof Shamsul Haq and Indian External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao said the two countries agreed to hold early talks at the foreign secretaries level to examine all available data and report to the foreign ministers for further steps for peaceful resolution of the South Talpatty issue.

India and Bangladesh have acknowledged that unresolved issues act as a source of irritation and have stressed to resolve the problems like South Talpatty and sharing of the Ganges water expeditiously and peacefully. The two countries have also agreed to make constant endeavor in settling the outstanding problems in a spirit of mutual understanding and trust. The two foreign ministers agreed to strengthen ties on the basis of mutual respect, trust, good will and further develop the good neighborliness. Bangladesh has persistently advocated that the best way of resolving disputes was the conference table. Negotiations bring two sides closer to each other. It also (?accords) effective communication leading to mutual exchanges and appreciation of views.

The joint statement issued before the talks and after have admitted their desirability of increasing mutual trust, understanding and friendship between India and Bangladesh. The announcements concede and acknowledge that South Talpatty is a bilateral problem and should be resolved accordingly. The leadership of the two countries should be credited for displaying a positive approach in the joint statement.

The India-Bangladesh foreign ministers level dialogue came in the wake of the (?desire) of defusing tension which had been building recently over some bilateral problems like South Talpatty and sharing of the Ganges water. It is nothing unusual for two neighbors to have problems, but such problems should be resolved peacefully and without straining relations. Both India and Bangladesh should bend their energies for maintaining good relations in the larger interest of both the people and more importantly for peace and stability in the region. One cannot rule out the possibility of occasional irritations between two countries, but leadership and pragmatism on either side should rise above petty interests to resolve the problems in a spirit of give and take.

Bangladesh, as is known, has over the years been steadfastly pursuing a policy of friendly relations with all her neighbors in the subcontinent as a matter of principle. This is the cardinal point of Bangladesh foreign policy. Bangladesh believes that friendship based on respect for each other's sovereignty could be the only basis of bilateral relations. Bangladesh has always shunned the path of confrontation and strongly advocates resolving bilateral problems through mutual consultations. It is hoped that two countries would make sincere efforts at resolving the problems blocking normal relations between India and Bangladesh and usher in an era of cooperation, peace and tranquility in the region.

ESSENTIAL SERVICES MAINTENANCE BILL PASSED 16 SEP

BK160821 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Sep 81

[Text] The Lok Sabha this morning passed the essential services maintenance bill after a marathon debate lasting nearly 20 hours. Sitting until the early hours of this morning, the house adopted the bill unanimously after the opposition, except the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam [DMK] walked out in protest against what they called the black bill.

During clause by clause consideration, the Lok Dal, Democratic Socialist Party, Janbadi Party and Muslim League abstained. Opposition members mostly belonging to the CPI and CPI-M tabled more than 500 amendments and division was called more than 30 times to negate them.

Winding up the debate, Home Minister Zail Singh launched a scathing attack on the opposition for trying to make political capital by raising the bogey of democracy and working class. He reiterated that it is the ruling party which has stood steadfastly by democracy.

Mr Zail Singh said the bill is meant for increasing production and maintaining smooth functioning of the essential services. He said political independence was achieved under the leadership of the Congress Party and it is under the leadership of Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi that we will achieve economic independence.

The opposition members alleged that the bill empowers the government to take draconian measures against the workers, but does not specify penalties against the erring employers for lockouts and layoffs.

During the third and final reading of the bill, the opposition members challenged that the working class will not take the bill lying down. Countering their challenge, the home minister said the ruling party has the support of the workers and the poor people of the country.

As the home minister was about to conclude his reply, the entire opposition, barring the DMK tore up copies of the bill and walked out crying: Shame, shame. The home minister severely criticized the opposition's attitude and said the resolution, which the opposition parties seek, cannot be brought about this way. Soon after, the bill was adopted unanimously amid cheers from Congress-I members.

Exactly at midnight, a CPI member pointed out that the business of the day was over and only the next day's business could be taken up at 11 am. He urged the deputy speaker, who was in the chair, to adjourn the house. The minister of state for parliamentary affairs, P. Venkatasubbiah, moved the motion to extend the sitting beyond midnight until the bill was disposed of. The motion was adopted by the house by a decision.

BILL PASSED TO ACQUIRE ALL SHARES OF OIL COMPANIES

BK161629 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Sep 81

[Text] Parliament has passed a bill for acquisition of all the shares of Oil India held by the Burmah Oil Company and of the undertaking in India of the Assam Oil Company and Burmah Oil Company. The bill, which was earlier passed by the Lok Sabha, was approved by the Rajya Sabha today.

Replying to the debate, Petroleum Minister P.C. Sethi said that the purpose of the bill is to bring all the oil companies under the public sector. All the members who spoke welcomed the bill.

SPOKESMAN CALLS RECENT U.S. DIALOGUE 'POSITIVE'

BK161525 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 15 Sep 81

[Text] An official spokesman in Islamabad said the dialogue between Pakistan and the United States has taken a positive turn with the recent visits to Islamabad by Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development Peter McPherson and American Under Secretary of State James Buckley, who brought with him a personal letter addressed to President Mohammad Ziaul Haq by President Reagan.

He said the program of American economic assistance to Pakistan over the next 5 years was discussed in detail with McPherson and his delegation and a mutually satisfactory agreement, subject to congressional approval, was reached. Similarly, the spokesman added, the talks with James Buckley were also concluded on a positive note. As is known, the agreement on principle had been reached during Buckley's earilier visit in June in regard to the acceptability of the American economic assistance and military sales package which was offered at that time. Soon after Buckley's visit, a Pakistan military delegation visited Washington to discuss details of the military sales program to Pakistan. During the talks, certain issues relating to the delivery schedule of some essential defense items had remained unresolved.

The spokesman pointed out that during his recent visit Buckley clarified these issues to Pakistan's satisfaction. As a result of the detailed exchange of views with him on this occasion, Pakistan was able to convey formal acceptance to the American package as modified and revised in the consecutive process that has not been completed. These proposals will now be put before the Congress [words indistinct] U.S. legal procedure.

The spokesman said Pakistan has been greatly reassured by the fact that the American administration fully understands its essential concern and there is a genuine desire to build a new relationship between the United States and Pakistan on the basis of trust, mutual respect and sovereign equality. The spokesman said that Pakistan wishes to reiterate that its acceptance of the American package does not affect in any way its commitment as a member of the Islamic Conference and the Nonaligned Movement or its well known position on major international issues in regard to which Pakistan's foreign policy has consistently maintained a principle stand. Similarly, the development of bilateral relation with the United States will not affect Pakistan's relationship with any third country.

Pakistan, the spokesman said, would like to reaffirm, particularly in regard to its relations with India, that there will be no weakening of its efforts to develop her relationship of mutual trust and confidence with this important neighboring country.

Pakistan is not in competition with India in an arms race. The modest quantity of arms that Pakistan may acquire during the next 5 years is solely meant to achieve partial replacement of its obsolete defense equipment. He said all that Pakistan proposes to do is to acquire a minimum defense capability to insure its security in the context of the regional situation, which is far from reasuring. Although [word indistinct] Pakistan as a small country, it needs assurances from larger neighbors in regard to its security, particularly from India, which, despite its overwhelming military superiority, has embarked on a program of acquiring the most modern and offensive weapons, including Jaguar, MiG-23, MiG-25, Mirage-2000 aircraft, in large number from the Western sources and on concessional terms from the Soviet Union. Pakistan is prepared on its part to do whatever it can to promote mutual confidence.

The spokesman said Pakistan would like to convey the assurance in expressing its desire for a friendly and tension-free relationship. Pakistan is not indulging in a propaganda exercise. If India inclines to banish its unfounded fear and (?agrees) to grasp the hand of friendship which Pakistan extends, it shall not find Pakistan wanting in fully reciprocating any gesture on its part for establishing good neighborly relations. On its part, the spokesman added, Pakistan is prepared to enter into immediate consultations with India for the purpose of exchanging mutual guarantees of nonaggression and nonuse of force in the spirit of the Simla Agreement.

ELECTION OF IRAQI AS UN PRESIDENT CONDEMNED

LD161806 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Sep 81

[Text] According to agency reports, the representative of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime has been elected president of the UN General Assembly. Following the election of the representative of the aggressive Iraqi regime, 'Ismat al-Kittani, as president of the UN General Assembly, a spokesman of our country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the following in an interview with a Central News Unit correspondent:

It is a cause for considerable regret that the presidency of the UN General Assembly is occupied by the representative of a regime whose hands have been soaked in the blood of the combatant, Muslim nation of Iraq and which has now invaded Iran's Islamic land with its aggressive forces, daily firing shells and heavy rockets into our residential areas, killing scores of innocent people. I am sorry that the presidency of an organization which wishes to condemn the South African regime for its intervention in Angola and for its daily killing of the combatant Namibian nation is now occupied by an aggressor, thanks to whose blatant intervention in the Islamic land of Iran the most elementary principles of human rights have been trampled underfoot. We feel that the United Nations has turned away from its own Charter, which condemns aggression and the use of force by any country. By electing Iraq to the presidency of the UN General Assembly, it has approved the principle of aggression. We strongly condemn this election and consider it a step backward from the UN Charter of fraternity and equality.

In the opinion of political observers in Tehran, the election of the Iraqi representative as the president of UN General Assembly is a Zionist plot aimed at creating a greater chasm in the Arab world.

AFP REVIEWS PRESS ON PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

NC161539 Paris AFP in English 1442 GMT 16 Sep 81

[Excerpt] Tehran, 16 Sep (AFP)--Iran's ruling political groupings could opt for fundamentalist Islamic Republican Party (IRP) leader Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Khamene'i as their consensus candidate in the October 2 presidential election, according to observers here. While the official number of candidates running in the election has not yet been released, two top religious leaders--Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i and acting Premier Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Reza Mahdavi-Kani--were reported to have filed their candidacy for the election held in the wake of the killing of President Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i and Premier Mohammad Javad Bahonar in a bomb explosion on August 30.

But, while most newspapers today continued to give wide coverage to Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i's candidacy, only the KEYHAN newspaper continued to report on that of Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdavi-Kani. In an editorial, however, KEYHAN said the premier might stand down either "immediately after political groups in the line of the imam (Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni) had taken sides, or a few days before the ballot".

The English-language KEYHAN INTERNATIONAL today published a front-page picture of Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i, who is also Tehran's Friday prayer leader, and a list of three presidential candidates which did not include that of the acting premier.

The English-language Tehran TIMES sided with Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i, "considered by the people a determined opponent of the United States", and did not comment on the premier's candidacy.

FALLAHI REVIEWS COURSE OF WAR IN INTERVIEW

LD162340 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 16 Sep 81

[Text] Brigadier General Fallahi, acting chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, today participated in a press conference attended by domestic and foreign journalists.

He said that more than 50 percent of the territory occupied by the Iraqi Ba'thist Army has been recaptured by the combatants of the army of Islam. On the eve of the second year of the war, fighting will continue for the rest of the occupied territory, with the cooperation and the efforts of the combatants of Islam.

Referring to the manner in which the war imposed on Iran by Iraq began, Brigadier General Fallahi said that the aggressive Iraqi Army actually started its ground offensive on 3 September 1980 and started its extensive air and ground attacks on 23 September 1980 and only until 22 October 1980 did it make any progress on our territory. Since 23 October 1980 the progress of Saddam's forces has been blocked and at present we are witnessing spectacular victories.

He added that the Iraqi Ba'thist army started the war using about 60 armored brigades and various weapons, whereas we confronted the aggressor using only 6 armoured brigades and quantity of equipment much less than that of Iraq and this attack was launched at a time when our army and Revolution Guards Corps were confronting the counterrevolution in Kordestan.

He went on to say that last year Iraq's maneuverability was 10 times greater than ours and the number of its tanks was more than 35 times greater. Today, however, with the efforts of all strata of the society and the Muslim combatants, our maneuverability is quantitatively equal to that of Iraq. As far as the quality is concerned, the cornerstones of the faith of the Iranian combatants stand against the unbelieving and apparently disciplined, but actually ramshackle, Iraqi Army.

He added that the offensives launched by the Iranian forces are necessary as long as they do not create dependence on any foreign power for equipment. We have replaced the shortage of weapons with the power of faith.

The acting chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran said that, despite Saddam's false claims, at present there are more than 4,442 Iraqi prisoners of war in Iran, and the representatives of the Red Cross are free to visit them; this is in addition to the large number of political refugees we have received from Iraq. He said that the number of the Iranian captives in Iraq at present is about 1,570. Of course, a number of civilians who are residents of occupied cities are also in Iraqi jails; however, in all we have at most 2,000 captives in Iraq. He continued by saying that since 1 September of this year, contrary to Iraq's claims, the number of our martyrs on the battlefronts has been less than half of Iraq's dead, and on all fronts we have made considerable progress while minimizing losses.

He said that Iraqi Army continuously opens its long-range artillery fire on the cities in the war zones in order to tell its people that these cities are under seige; whereas, in spite of the fact that our artillery range covers several Iraqi cities, our army has only aimed at their military installations because we do not tell lies to our people and do not have any intention of making false propaganda. Our Islamic conscience also tells us to avoid firing a shell deliberately into a city.

Concerning the Iraqi Army, he said that as a result of that regime's policy of following world imperialism, its army uses any destructive weapon which it has at its disposal, if it can or it obtains [as heard], but we have stood against them with full power and have blocked the progress of the aggressive enemy in the air, on land and at sea.

In conclusion, he said that the principal issue for the combatants on the fronts, as for the risen nation, is the war. The sedition and disturbances created by the minigroups have no effect on the morale of the combatants in the war. The week of war [commemmoration] is a week for more contact between the people and the combatants on the fronts for gaining final victory over the aggression enemy. With the help of all the combatants, who are at present fighting with full coordination and with a single goal and a specified line, this victory is near.

He said that the army which, with the other people's forces and the Revolution Guards Corps, is standing against the enemy, is indebted to God's grace, the people's spiritual support and the imam of the nation's continuous backing and support.

JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 638 REPORTS IRAQI LOSSES

LD161834 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Sep 81

[Communique 638 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Over the past 24 hours the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran have achieved successes in their air, naval and land operations against the aggressive enemy.

In a series of joint air and naval operations carried out by the forces of the army of Islam, an air force fighter plane bombed the Al-Umayyah oil platform in Iraq and destroyed part of it. During the same operation, one of our fighter planes destroyed an Iraqi MiG.

Air Force fighter planes completely destroyed two of Saddam's naval vessels in the vicinity of the Al-Bakr oil platform, killing or wounding a number of Saddam's men.

The fire of the combative personnel of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the positions of the forces of Saddam's army in the occupied zone in Khuninshahr destroyed several foxholes and squad trenches, one ammunition dump and two observation trenches and killed several of Saddam's troops.

Exchanges of sporadic fire continues on the Abadan front. Fire by combat units of the Police of the Islamic Republic of Iran destroyed one observation trench and one squad trench, killing their occupants. Ground forces artillery destroyed several observation posts, three tanks, one 106-mm gun, two mortars, one antiaircraft machinegun and two ammunition dumps of the enemy and stopped the Ba'thist mercenaries' traffic between their positions.

Exchanges of fire continued on the operational fronts in the west. In the Mehran area, our forces artillery and mortar fire destroyed several enemy vehicles and trenches and killed or wounded 27 of the enemy forces.

In the Tang-e Hajiyan area, our forces managed to destroy 1 tank and 4 vehicles of Saddam's army and to damage 8 vehicles and 15 guns of the enemy.

In the Marivan area, several concentrations of the aggressive forces came under our combatants' fire and losses and casualties were inflicted upon the enemy.

Our forces' fire on the personnel and fortifications of Saddam's forces, at the end of the Tawilah road in Iraq, killed or wounded 25 enemy soldiers and damaged their vehicles and equipment.

On the Shur-e Shirin and Konjancham fronts, our forces destroyed one squad trench and its occupants, two mortars and two bulldozers of the enemy.

Ten combatants from the Ground Forces, two combatants from the Gendarmerie and one hero from the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran were martyred during the 14 September battles on the western and southern fronts. May their path be eternal and may their memory be held dear.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

GUARDS CORPS INFLICTS DAMAGE, CASUALTIES

LD151950 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Sep 81

[Text] A Central News Unit dispatch reports that the Public Relations Office of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps has announced that the operations carried out by the selfless corps combatants on the battlefronts of good against evil in the last few days are as follows:

On 12 September on the Shush front, one bunker and one observation post of the mercenary enemy, together with their occupants, were destroyed by fire from the corps combatants' mortar unit.

On the Darkhovin front, one enemy ammunition dump was utterly destroyed by the mortar fire of Islamic Revolution Guards Corps forces.

On the Karkheh Kur front one enemy ammunition dump was utterly destroyed and eight more of Saddam's mercenaries were killed or wounded by fire from the mortar unit.

On 13 September on the Dezful front, Dasht-e 'Abbas axis, casualties and losses were inflicted on the aggressor enemy by the corps' mortar fire, as a result of which 1 enemy trench was destroyed and more than 10 infidel servicemen were killed.

KURDISH RADIO REPORTS HEAVY FIGHTING WITH IRANIANS

JN161738 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Surani Kurdish 1340 GMT 16 Sep 81

[Text] Oshnoviyeh--Reports indicate that during the battle which raged in the Jaldian-Sofian area between the peshmerga and the enemy on 14 September 1981, the bold peshmerga inflicted heavy losses on the enemy, including the downing of a helicopter. The enemy avenged this by burning the crops of the citizens in the area. The Kurdish Democratic Party [KDP], however, forced the enemy to retreat, leaving behind the bodies of several soldiers. The peshmerga siezed four RPG shells, one Japanese-made knapsack full of medicine, several shells and (K J) guns. We bless the victories of our KDP peshmerga.

Another dispatch from our correspondent says that on 15 September 1981 at 0600, the guards and the mercenaries of the provisional leadership launched an attack on the positions of the Simko force peshmerga. The valiant peshmerga fighters repulsed the attack of the traitors and clashed with them for 14 hours, during which 27 of the treacherous provisional leadership's elements were killed and another captured.

The attacking enemy was unable to resist and raised its hands trying to ward off the fierce blows of the peshmerga. The enemy was even unable to evacuate its dead and left behind five corpses.

On another front, the peshmerga dealt heavy blows to the mercenaries, killing seven of them. The enemy lost a total of 35 killed in yesterday's fighting. Unfortunately, three of our peshmerga fighters were martyred.

Latest reports we received at midnight last night indicate that heavy fighting is still raging between the KDP peshmerga and the area's inhabitants on the one side and the mercenaries of the provisional leadership and the guards on the other.

We convey our condolences to the families of the three martyrs, the Simko force peshmerga and to all the inhabitants of Kordestan who are stationed in the trenches of honor and integrity facing the enemy.

FREE VOICE OF IRAN ON ANTIREGIME STRUGGLES

NC160754 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 15 Sep 81

[Text] Freedom fighters in our homeland continue their holy nationalist struggle. During a period of (?a week, 128) executions of officials were carried out by armed combatants.

Two motorcyclists in Tehran threw handgrenades at a bookshop owned by a supporter of Khomeyni's regime and set it on fire.

In Mashhad, (Hasan Rostami), a (?savage) member of the Revolution Guards Corps, was assassinated by two motorcyclists, who then escaped.

In Reza'iyeh, a bomb exploded in front of the house of a man named ('Ali Hejazi), a (?hireling) of the Khomeyni regime.

On Ferdowsi Avenue in Mashhad, armed combatants fired at and seriously wounded a committee member.

In Shiraz, Esfahan, Zanjan, Kazerun, Tabriz and many other areas, armed struggles were carried out against the regime.

The facts reported in this news item have been compiled from a single day's events by the Free Voice of Iran correspondent.

GUARDS ARREST 18 ATTEMPTING TO LEAVE COUNTRY

GF161604 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 16 Sep 81

[Text] A number of persons have been arrested for attempting to leave Iran illegally. According to a report by the Central News Unit in Borazjan, 18 persons attempting to leave Iran illegally were pursued by brother revolution guards on the Genaveh-Borazjan road. One person was killed and the rest were captured. In a related incident, four persons escaped from Iran, leaving their car behind.

ISLAMIC OFFICIALS VISIT KHUZESTAN WAR ZONE

GF161433 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 16 Sep 81

[Excerpts] A 19-man commission consisting of representatives from Islamic movements throughout the world arrived in Ahvaz at around 1900 yesterday. The commission has come to observe the criminal acts of Saddam's puppet Ba'thist regime. It was invited by the liberation movements unit of the Ahvaz Islamic Revolution Guard Corps.

The commission includes representatives from the following movements: Moro in the Philippines, Eritrea in Ethiopia and Islamic movements in Afghanistan, Bahrain, Iraq and (Fattani) of the Arabian Peninsula. They have been joined by the head of the PLO office in Ahvaz.

The representatives arrived at the hero-nurturing city of Dezful this morning and visited areas that have been destroyed by the missiles, shelling and aerial bombardment of Saddam's lackeys.

The representatives of liberation movements visited Ayatollah Qazi following their tour of previously shelled areas. In a short speech during the meeting, the Dezful Friday imam asked Muslims throughout the world to unite in their struggle against the superpowers. He said that all faithful persons are brothers and that is why Iran is supporting all oppressed nations.

MONTAZERI APPOINTS TEMPORARY QOM FRIDAY IMAM

GF161202 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 16 Sep 81

[Text] Following the martyrdom of Ayatollah Asadallah Madani and Imam Khomeyni's appointment of Ayatollah Meshkini as Tabriz Friday imam, Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri has sent a message to Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Ahmad Jannati asking him to assume temporary leadership of Friday prayers in Qom because of the importance of Qom Friday prayers.

## SRI LANKA

### HAMEED ON LOS CONFERENCE, ECONOMIC ZONE

BK121127 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 12 Sep 81

[Excerpt] The Law of the Sea has brought Sri Lanka a territorial sea of 12 miles and an exclusive economic zone [EEZ] of 200 miles and rights to the seabed beyond 200 miles. This was stated by Foreign Minister Shahul Hameed at the 127th annual prize giving of St Anthony's College in Kandy yesterday.

Hameed said that in the Exclusive Economic Zone all the fish and the minerals belong to us. Beyond the 200 mile limit of the EEZ we had made substantial gains [words indistinct]. Sri Lanka successfully maintained at the Law of the Sea conference that the limit applicable to other countries should not apply to us on account of the very special nature of the seabed of our coasts.

The minister said that he had to launch a major campaign for international recognition of Sri Lanka's claim. He said Sri Lanka was able to achieve recognition of its claim. Together with this unique accommodation made for Sri Lanka by the conference, the area off our coasts which comes within our control is over 20 times the land area of the country. He said it is a vast area which would one day yield the resources that would assist our development. He expressed the hope that the conference would be able to sign the Law of the Sea treaty next year.

### JAYEWARDENE RETURNS FROM SAUDI VISIT 10 SEP

BK101251 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 10 Sep 81

[Excerpt] President Jayewardene returned to the island this morning after his state visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Accompanying him were Mrs Jayewardene, Foreign Minister A.C.S. Hameed, Minister of Finance and Planning Ronald de Mel, and Minister of Transport M.H. Mohamed.

### FINANCE MINISTER ASKS PRIVATE SECTOR TO COOPERATE

BK161143 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 16 Sep 81

[Excerpt] Finance and Planning Minister Ronnie de Mel yesterday warned the country's private sector that if it wanted to survive it would have to cooperate with the government and not obstruct it.

Inaugurating Sri Lanka's first (?rural) banking and staff training college set up in Colombo with assistance from the Asian Development Bank, De Mel criticized what he described as a little group of Colombo tycoons, who, he said, dominated the private sector in the country. He stressed that if the private sector wanted to have a healthy existence, it must learn to change its attitude completely and blend harmoniously with the people's aspirations and the government's development plan.

## BRIEFS

NEW DEPUTY MINISTER--Somaweera Wijesinghe Alawathuwela, MP for Dodangaslanda, was on 5 September appointed by President J.R. Jayewardene as the deputy minister of regional development and acting minister of regional development. Alawathuwela took his oaths on 5 September at the president's house. Alawathuwela replaces G.V. Punchinilame, MP for Ratnapura who was stripped of his rank by the president. [Excerpt] [Colombo SUN in English 6 Sep 81 p 1 BK]